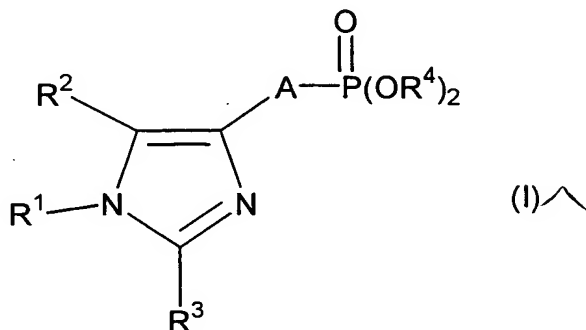


## ABSTRACT

The invention provides an improvement in the production of imidazole derivatives including histamine H<sub>3</sub> agonist immepip and histamine H<sub>3</sub> antagonist VUF4929. Desired imidazole derivatives can be easily obtained in high yield by using novel intermediates represented by the general formula (I):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an amino-protecting group; R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, or hydroxy-(lower alkyl); R<sup>4</sup> is lower alkyl, halogenated lower alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted phenyl; and A is C<sub>1-3</sub> alkylene.